

**Lutheran**  
*Building*  
**Men in**  
*Mission*  
**Mission**  
*Christ*

# foundations

*Our vision is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.*



## Day of fun on lake raises money for Lutheran camps

*Adapted and used with permission. Original story written by Melanie Tucker and published by The Daily Times, Maryville, Tenn., August 25, 2015.*

The familiar Olympic rings and gold medals might have been missing at this Olympic-style fundraising at Louisville Point Park in Louisville, Tenn., but competitive enthusiasm was ever present, and for a great cause – local Lutheran outdoor ministries.

The third annual Come to the Water event was held on a gorgeous Saturday this past summer as 10 teams of five members each came together to demonstrate their skills in numerous activities. There was cane pole fishing, cornhole tossing, horseshoes, soccer ball kicking, relay races and even golf. Each team had to have members of varying ages, from young children to those in their 70s and beyond.

Larry Moeller, a former board member of Lutheran Men in Mission, was in the thick of it all. His congregation, St. Paul Lutheran in Maryville, hosted this event that raises money each year for Lutheran camps. The goal this time was \$10,000, he said. A total of \$5,000 had been raised before their dinner, and more money was coming in after their day of fun and fellowship.

### Let the games begin

The day started out with devotions, Larry said. After lunch, the real fun began.

In years past, Come to the Water involved only St. Paul Lutheran Church. Larry said this time the congregation reached out to other Lutheran congregations in the area, including Messiah Lutheran in Knoxville, Faith Lutheran in Farragut and Shepherd of the Hills in Loudon.

“All of the teams had to be inter-generational,” Larry said. “One member had to be from under 20 years old, one 20 to 40, one 40 to 60, one over 60 and a captain of any age.” The youngest competitor was three, and the oldest was 88. The young ones found their strengths in the events involving speed, Larry said. The older competitors were really good at golf and fishing – go figure!

### They're all wet

But perhaps the most fun was getting to dunk several participants, including Rev. Julian Gordy, bishop of the Southeastern Synod. Larry said there were probably 20 to 30 people who took their turns in the

*(continued on page 4)*

This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Your contribution ensures that *foundations* will continue to be sent to you.

It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line or email us, and share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in this newsletter. We're also interested in knowing what topics and issues you'd like to see featured.

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## When it comes to men's ministry, we never work alone

So there I was hanging out a while back with some of my buddies at the International Pentecostal Holiness Church – you read that right! There I was sitting at the table with Bill who never ceases to challenge and encourage me. Once again I was blessed through him and the hospitality of his staff and denominational leaders. But we weren't the only ones there. Our United Methodist, Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal, Southern Baptist partners and friends were also there at the table.

We denominational men's ministry leaders have two reasons for gathering together:

1) to support and encourage each other, and 2) to share what our ministries are doing, giving permission to each other to use our ideas and materials if they are useful.

The ministry leaders of other denominations are just one example of the important partnerships that Lutheran Men in Mission has. Here are some others:

- **The A-Team:** This team, developing the men's ministry of the future, involves ELCA and non-ELCA Lutherans, Episcopalians, United Methodists and others.
- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:** We hear many testimonies and stories about changed lives and leaders that have developed through ministries at our camps and retreat centers. Please make use of these great resources. Reacquaint yourself with our ELCA outdoor ministries at [lomnetwork.org](http://lomnetwork.org).
- **Vibrant Faith Ministries:** This team of passionate ministry leaders is on a mission to explore the changing landscape of faith formation in the hearts of people today. Vibrant Faith Ministries has been a valuable partner with LMM through the incorporation process and envisioning the future of men's ministry. Check this resource out at [vibrantfaith.org](http://vibrantfaith.org).
- **Tim Wright Ministries:** Our concern for male spirituality begins with boys. We promote Tim Wright's resources and he speaks at our events. LMM is exploring ways to go deeper in our partnership with Tim Wright. Use Tim's resources to develop ministries for your men and boys. Learn more at [timwrightministries.org](http://timwrightministries.org).
- **ALT Year (Abundant Life Together):** ALT Year provides young adults, ages 18-25, with a year in intentional community to explore vocation through theological, practical and shared learning. Participants grow together through personal reflection, rich relationships, leadership and community service. Check it out at [altyear.org](http://altyear.org).

God did not design us to navigate this world alone. We need partners. I often hear congregational men's ministry leaders say, "Our men's ministry is too small." To that I would reply, walk down the street, knock on the door of a neighboring church and connect with those who are concerned for men there. You'll discover you have much more in common with the leaders of that church than you ever imagined. And you'll have some new partners to walk with in your ministry with men.

Doug Haugen, executive director  
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Lutheran Men in Mission's first group of Men's Ministry Specialists. Left to right: Brian Clark, Ken Reinhoehl, Terry Edwards and David Meyer.

## Men's Ministry Specialists become reality!

There seems to be a big gap between an idea and making it a reality. A clean, well-organized garage is a great idea, but the act of making it a reality is a giant hurdle. It's a very rewarding experience whenever you actually clear a hurdle and achieve your goals.

This past year Lutheran Men in Mission has taken an idea and is making it a reality. LMM has been shaping a training process to develop and equip men to be Men's Ministry Specialists (MMS).

Before this training process could begin, research was done to find materials and then curriculum was written focusing on engaging men of all ages and relating with them. Videos and articles were compiled to aid in discussions.

The training is a two-year experience for selected applicants. During the first year, the men are guided through reading books and resources. Viewpoints and insights are discussed as a group, but each man also looks inwardly to help ensure their heart is in the right place. They also pay attention to relationships that men build. Programs and events are discussed, but the primary objective is developing intentional, individual relationships.

Other than conference calls, texts and emails, the first group of men did not meet in person – that was until early this past October. The four men who completed the first year of training met in Milwaukee, Wisc., and for the first time, they could shake hands, give hugs, share a smile and match names with actual faces.

During our three days together, we strengthened our bonds that, up to this point, were developed over long distances. We spent one day at Unity Lutheran Church. We used a classroom and learned how Unity had been intentionally changing the culture of the

community around them. Pastor Kevan Penrose even shared some teaching tools that he has been using. It just so happens the Men's Ministry Specialists will also be learning these same tools as they begin their second year.

The group of Specialists in training also reviewed the resources from the previous months, discussing the pros and cons of each. At the end of this first phase, they evaluated the entire content and process, validating and affirming almost everything and praising the ways in which they had grown.

Now these men are entering their second year of training. They are moving from being apprentices to becoming journeymen. Each man comes from a different congregation and area. Their duties and challenges will vary. My role as a trainer for this period of time will be to keep walking alongside them and help them build bold, daring followers of Christ through strong relationships with men.

So, it is my pleasure to announce the 2014-2015 LMM Men's Ministry Specialists! They include Terry Edwards from S.C., Brian Clark of Pa., Ken Reinohl of Ohio, and Dave Meyer of Ill. Please support and encourage these men as they start implementing their training. Ask them about what they have learned. Maybe you'll even discover your own interest or curiosity about becoming a Men's Ministry Specialist – if so, you know how to reach me.

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## LMM EVENTS 2016

### Building Men for Christ Workshops

January 23  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Vienna, Va.

### One Year to Live Retreats

February 19-21  
Camp Ewalu  
Strawberry Point, Iowa

March 11-13  
Tracy's Camp  
Pinewood, S.C.

### High, Deep & Wide Getaways

April 22-23  
Lutherdale Bible Camp  
Elkhorn, Wisc.

## LMM EVENTS 2017

2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering  
July 21-23, 2017  
(LMM Assembly business meeting: July 20-21)  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Go to [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) for updated events, program information and registration details, or to submit LMM events to be posted.

*(continued from cover)*

dunking booth. For a fee, you could send them into the water – even the bishop.

The money raised will help send folks to four area outdoor ministries in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The ELCA camps are for all ages, operate year-round and have provided memorable faith and leadership building experiences for boys and men alike.

### Good time had by all

While there was plenty of fun competition during the day-long Come to the Water event, the day was more about the camaraderie and raising money for the camps. A date has already been set for 2016.

"It gets the different ages doing something," said Rick Ohsiek, pastor of St. Paul. "If you didn't do it that way, you might have a bunch of young guys against a bunch of old guys. This way, you have to work as a team and there is more interaction." It also reflects the multigenerational aspect of Lutheran outdoor ministries.

Rick was one of those who got dunked along with the bishop. The children had a good aim, the he said. At least the water had been sitting for a while and it was warm, Rick said.

There are plans to add even more congregations to future Come to the Water events, Larry said.

### Jump in the water and start planning your event!

Our 132 ELCA camps, retreat centers and outdoor ministries have had a profound influence in the lives and faith of children, youth, adults and older adults – including men – throughout the history of our church. They are an important partner in men's ministry across the country, and hosting Come to the Water events is a way of supporting outdoor ministries and helping boys and men become more involved in their local camp programs.

Come to the Water is an effort of Lutheran Men in Mission to help you unleash your local creativity and enthusiasm to launch local fundraising and service events that directly support the Lutheran outdoor ministries of your choice. This is a lightweight, nimble, grassroots program reaching out nationwide to motivate Lutheran men across all generations to work "shoulder to shoulder" in support of the camps, retreat centers or outdoor ministries that hold a special place in their hearts and minds.

To find resources and help for planning your own Come to the Water fundraising event, go to [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) and click on "Come to the Water" under the "Events" tab. You'll discover some background information, a sample event, frequently asked questions, someone to contact and more.

To become more familiar with ELCA outdoor ministry programs and locations go to [lomnetwork.org](http://lomnetwork.org).





The ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission continues to grow thanks to the creative, dedicated and generous work of our staff, board, volunteer leadership and donors. We would not be experiencing this growth without – by God’s grace – your generous financial support. Listed below are the donors who contributed through October 2015. Please refer any additions or corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org) or 800-638-3522, ext., 2595. Thank you for your support!

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## **Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club**

These members of the Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club have helped to secure the future of this ministry by remembering Lutheran Men in Mission in their will or estate planning. If you would like to know more about including LMM in your will, please contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

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# Your generous gifts change lives

Recently, I had the privilege to be with a group of guys who were asked to share a story or an occasion where they had made an impact in the life of another person. It was inspiring, emotional and humbling to hear these stories. It was also a time to be reminded that we are called by Christ our Lord to be an instrument or a vessel of his grace in the world. I am reminded of the text from Isaiah 64:8 (NIV): “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

As we live out our lives of faith, we are being observed and watched by others. Those who are watching can tell by what they see and what they hear that we are followers of Christ’s example of acceptance and grace. They can tell we are vessels for Christ, making it possible for us to make an impact in the lives of people around us.

The ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission is intentional and purposeful in challenging and encouraging men to be vessels of Christ’s grace, Christ’s acceptance and Christ’s forgiveness in the world. LMM is intentional about being impactful in the lives of other men.

## Have your gift matched – doubled!

We are extending an invitation to you to help us sustain this impactful, intentional ministry with men. Help us meet the challenge! Three generous, faithful men have stepped forward this year and provided a Challenge Fund Incentive. **Through January 31, 2016 (the end of LMM’s fiscal year) every new gift, renewed gift from years past or increased gift from last year will be matched up to \$100,000.** Yes, you read correctly – matched. For

example, a generous gift of \$250 will be doubled in size to \$500!

Please consider joining us in this wonderful effort. Lutheran Men in Mission is funded solely through gifts and grants. It receives no support from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Make your donation today and have your gift doubled because of the Challenge Fund!

## Choose a way to give that works for you

There are numerous ways to give, go online to [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org), scroll across the tool bar to “support us” and then click “giving online.” We now have the ability to receive gifts by either debit or credit card. Consider making your contribution a **monthly recurring gift**, as it will greatly help the ministry throughout the entire year and will provide you with an easy, efficient way of giving.

You can also simply send a gift through the mail to the following address. Make checks payable to “Lutheran Men in Mission” and send to Lutheran Men in Mission, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Consider becoming a “Builder” in our donor level recognition with a gift of \$250.

Your support of this vital ministry is greatly appreciated and has a far-reaching impact in the lives of men across the country. We are looking forward to receiving your gift! And, don’t forget, the deadline for having your gift matched is January 31, 2016.

Craig Corbin, Director of Development

Lutheran Men in Mission

[Craig.Corbin@elca.org](mailto:Craig.Corbin@elca.org)



**Port Authority Performance Polo**  
**\$30**  
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**SHOP THESE STYLES AND MORE @ [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)**

# Purpose, Adversity, Perseverance...

Last week my wife and I had the privilege of attending a “meet and greet” and accompanying lecture with David McCullough, the noted author and historian. He is most well-known for his two Presidential biographies, “John Adams” and “Truman,” but he has also written books about the Brooklyn Bridge, the Panama Canal and the Johnstown Flood. His most recent work, “The Wright Brothers,” was published last May. I have read and thoroughly enjoyed most of his books, and I have a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for him. Getting to meet him and hear him speak was a bucket list event!

During his lecture, McCullough talked about the Wright brothers and their focus on developing a “motorized flying machine.” He highlighted the many problems they ran into and the naysayers who said that man could not fly. But they didn’t let the challenges and pessimists distract them, and they continued in their quest. In the end, they were successful with four flights on Dec. 17, 1903 – the first manned, motorized flights in history.

McCullough pointed out that successful people such as the Wright brothers must: 1) have a high purpose, 2) deal with adversity, and 3) persevere at what they are doing. As I reflected on this, it hit me that this accurately describes our work in ministry with men. Let me expand:

- **High Purpose:** Lutheran Men in Mission’s objective is to help men “become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ,” in other words, disciples of Jesus. We also strive to create a safe haven for men where guys can feel comfortable sharing their inner most thoughts. Is this a high purpose? Is this worth doing? I certainly think so.

- **Adversity:** Satan is around us every day throwing obstacles in our path – some blatantly visible, others much more subtle. On any given day, there are a number of things that work to divert us from our path. We must be prepared to deal with unexpected events and circumstances, that is, adversity.
- **Perseverance:** When I first got started with Lutheran Men in Mission, Doug Haugen told me that this work would be some of the hardest that I would ever do. He was certainly correct, but it also has been very rewarding. As an example, it may take from three to five years for a congregation to have a ministry for men become an integral part of its culture and congregational life. Making this happen takes perseverance.

For all of you involved in leadership of ministry with men, you are striving to a high purpose and will face adversity, but perseverance and the strength and encouragement of the Holy Spirit will lead you to great results – stay the course; keep the faith!



Your servant in Christ,

Rich White  
President  
[rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org)

## 2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering Minneapolis, Minnesota July 21-23, 2017

Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21

- Mark your calendars.
- Make a list of guys and young men to bring with you.
- Watch for more details. See you in Minneapolis!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road / Chicago, IL 60631  
[lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)



## One Year to Live retreats equip men for ups and downs of life

Brian describes himself, “as a man among men, I am a man of honesty, purpose driven and can encourage and inspire others! If you know me, then you know it’s not about me.” Brian is a machinist by trade, but loves giving his time to ministry. He can be found singing in the choir, studying to be a Men’s Ministry Specialist or riding his green motorcycle through the countryside.

During the month of May this past year, Brian had what he calls, “mountaintop and a valley” experience all within a couple of days. He volunteered to staff a One Year to Live (OYTL) retreat in North Carolina. Brian had done this several times and gained something from it every time – it is a reward to be with men as they build their relationship with God.

After the retreat and while being close to his home state of South Carolina, Brian took a couple days to visit family. It was during this time that Brian spent some of the last hours with his mother before she passed away unexpectedly. He was able to be with her in those last moments, and then with family members afterwards. He intended this long weekend to be full of joy, but it ended with a funeral for his mother – a mountaintop and a valley experience, for sure.

This story isn’t meant to sadden those who read it, but rather highlight the opportunities before each of us. Brian credits Lutheran Men in Mission’s OYTL retreat with equipping him with some tools to face life’s challenges. It has allowed him to be there for so many men. It also put him in the right spot physically and spiritually when he needed it most in his own life. Brian was able

to better face adversity and grief due to the support of other men around him, and the knowledge that the Holy Spirit was taking care of his mother and him.

This message of being equipped for life is resonating across the country as more men are attending the One Year to Live retreat. During the last few years, over a thousand men have participated from South Carolina to California, and many places in-between. Go to the “Events” tab at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) and see when the next retreats are scheduled.



We all need to seize the moment and love those around us. Let us strive to be the daring men God created us to be by living boldly into our identities. Attend a One Year to Live retreat so that you too can answer God’s call and be the man God created you to be. Go in peace to serve the Lord!